

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. New claims 4-8 have been added.

Claims 4-8 are therefore presently pending in the case.

II. Support for the Amendment to the Specification and Newly Added Claims

The specification has been amended to include reference to the co-pending U.S. Application.

Claims 4-6 find support throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least at page 4, line 9 and page 15 lines 6-7.

Claim 7 finds support throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found in SEQ ID NO:2 of the sequence listing at least in Section 5.3.

Claim 8 finds support throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least in Section 5.3.

It will, therefore, be understood that no new matter is included within the amended specification or the newly added claims.


III. Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present case is in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, or believe that certain amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

January 22, 2004

Date

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